

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Friday, September 4, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West
1 N. University Drive, 2nd Floor Hearing Room
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

Chair Estenoz called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM and asked for roll call (see attendance list below).

The Chair moved for a motion to approve the minutes of May 29 and June 5 and they were unanimously approved. She noted the light, but important agenda for today's meeting. She stressed that it was time to synthesize what had been learned to date and to have a substantive discussion. Albert Perez then gave the Tech Team report. He indicated that the Tech Team had been working on a number of technical issues, he felt it was important to start seriously deliberating on projects, and Dr. Jurado would talk further on this later in the meeting. The Chair indicated that she had appointed Mr. Perez to the Water Resources Advisory Council of the South Florida Water Management District ("District"). She asked Dr. Jurado to talk about a resolution to extend the term of the Task Force an additional 8 months, through May, 2010. A motion for approval of the resolution was made from Deputy Mayor Rosen, seconded, and approved.

Chair Estenoz then talked about a District Governing Board discussion of the ocean outfall legislation and what requirements the District would look for in implementing reuse. The District has indicated they feel it is already in the language for "Basis for Review" so they have no plans to initiate rulemaking on the issue. She indicated that the District's intent is not to dictate to utilities the types of alternative water supply projects to pursue, but the issue of how to reuse the approximate 40 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater from the ocean outfalls has not been resolved. The District's role comes into play when a request for reuse would affect a consumptive use permit. There was a discussion about the Florida Department of Community Affairs' role, where technical support comes from, and how coordination between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the District needs to occur. There was a longer discussion of the impact of the outfall legislation on the County and the City of Hollywood and how it is necessary to work with other communities to address this issue to find a beneficial use for the reuse water. The Chair pointed out that a recommendation from this Task Force might be appropriate. She then asked Dr. Jurado to make her presentation.

Dr. Jurado presented a review of the activities of Task Force over the past year and she summarized the key themes that have emerged, the objectives of the Task Force, considerations of possible topics for further discussion, and potential next steps. Dr. Jurado talked about planning considerations, water quality considerations, panel recommendations for multi-jurisdictional projects, and the regional options that have been developed by the Tech Team. She then asked if anything had been missed in her presentation. She reminded the Task Force of the original mission and presented the recommendations to date that had

been made. She suggested the Task Force may want to consider additional recommendations. Dr. Jurado indicated that staff are developing an outline for a final Task Force report and that it is hoped a draft would be available for Task Force review by February. She also indicated it would be an appropriate time now to look at a schedule for future Task Force meetings.

Chair Estenoz invited Albert Carbon, Public Works Director for the City of Fort Lauderdale, to give his presentation next on the Phase 2A scope of work for the evaluation of the C-51 Reservoir project. He noted that the Phase 2A scope of work consists of four tasks. Task 1 is to update the population projections. He reiterated the importance of all utilities getting their information to Hazen and Sawyer as soon as possible so they can get this task completed, and this information is due today. Task 2 deals with water conveyance. Due to comments on this issue by the District and the U.S. Department of Interior, they are looking at other options for conveying the water south. Task 3 will involve looking at geotechnical and hydrologic considerations, which will be compiled into a technical memo. Task 4 will be a cost-effectiveness sensitivity analysis. He noted that all four tasks are expected to be complete by October 13. Extensive coordination is occurring among the District, the Broward WRTF, Palm Beach WRTF, the U.S. Department of the Interior including Refuge staff, and the C-51 Reservoir Project Work Group. He noted these tasks and delivery of the Phase 2A study should be wrapped up by October 13. Brian Shields, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department, spoke about the Palm Beach County perspective on the C-51 project. He noted that they hope to gain the support of the Palm Beach County Commission on September 22 for moving ahead on the Phase 2A scope of work. Mr. Carbon indicated that conveyance of water via the L-40 Canal is no longer on the table because of concerns about this option by the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

The final presentation was made by Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities for the City of Tamarac, on the progress to date by the Tech Team Cooling Tower Subcommittee on investigating the feasibility of reusing cooling tower wastewater and condensate as an alternative water supply option. He mentioned that there are two methods of harvesting water from a cooling tower system; collection of condensate and reuse of water within “no bleed” systems. He noted that up to 7.5 MGD of water can be collected as condensate, depending upon the size of the system. He talked about the option of preparing a model ordinance for individual city adoption as a short term solution and amending the Florida Building Code as a statewide measure, which would be a longer process. Vice Chair Jacobs asked that the Tech Team look further into whether a model ordinance is the best approach (which would go before the League of Cities for support), and if so, to proceed with developing a draft ordinance. In the meantime, the Task Force might want to consider gaining state legislative support for amending the Florida Building Code for statewide implementation. Dr. Jurado provided additional input and indicated further evaluation is needed.

The discussion then turned to what the next steps are for the Task Force. Vice Chair Jacobs mentioned that the Task Force needs to decide where it goes from here, that after recommendations are developed and the official term of the Task Force ends, there needs to be a mechanism in place for the Task Force to periodically convene to ensure their initiatives continue.

Chair Estenoz referred to Dr. Jurado’s “main themes” slide and asked the Task Force if there were any other issues they needed to address or consider. Thomas Good suggested that the

Task Force consider the Army Corps' C-9/C-11 CERP Water Preserve Area projects to see if they could serve as water recharge projects. Chair Estenoz updated the group on the status of the projects with respect to authorization and funding through the Water Resources Development Act, and that there may be an opportunity to evaluate additional concerns in the Corps' evaluation. Dr. Jurado described discussions that the County had previously with the Corps on those projects, and how they compliment the County's secondary canal interconnect projects. Chair Estenoz inquired whether the group would like a presentation on the C-9/C-11 CERP WPA projects. Vice Chair Jacobs suggested a short, graphical presentation would be informative. It was agreed to invite the Army Corps to the next Task Force meeting to provide a presentation on where they are with the projects, what the total storage might be and when the water might be available.

On additional issues, Mayor Kaplan inquired whether any utility has considered changing their operations in response to discussions thus far by the Task Force.

Vice Chair Jacobs broached the subject of proposed 2-day per week year-round landscape irrigation restrictions under consideration by the District. She noted that similar restrictions have been adopted elsewhere in South Florida. She opined that Broward County needs to proceed along this same path, and that policymakers should be more involved in directing their utilities toward this approach. Chair Estenoz explained that the District is moving toward adoption of a 3-day per week ordinance because of the resistance that has been put up about the 2-day per week option. Vice Chair Jacobs expressed concern with this and reiterated that if we all recognize that conservation is our number one way to save water, then we need to support 2-day per week watering. Mr. Hanks asked for consideration of flexibility on irrigation schedules if reuse requirements go into place. Commissioner Aronson asked for some dialog with the Tech Team on where the opposition to 2-day per week watering is coming from, and to better understand the issues involved. After discussion about how to proceed in this regard, the Task Force asked the Tech Team to bring together the members of the Tech Team who have been most involved in this issue to put together a summary of utility issues with the 2-day per week water option and to come back to the Task Force in October with this information for discussion. Vice Chair Jacobs indicated that the presentation should include what the issues are, identify how these issues are being addressed in southwest Florida and in Miami-Dade County, and identify why 2-day watering wouldn't work in Broward County. She noted we need to come away with two deliverables; potential exclusions and exemptions from the rule and a plan for moving forward on restrictions. There was also a brief discussion of the hours of watering.

Chair Estenoz indicated the Tech Team should be working on ocean outfall recommendations and the cooling tower ordinance. Commissioner Jacobs asked about consideration of establishing a regional body after the Task Force ends and suggested that guiding principles be developed for development of new AWS projects, to ensure studies look at issues holistically and also address energy usage. Commissioner Aronson inquired whether there are opportunities to lay reuse pipes above ground, in canals, and along canals.

Dr. Jurado offered a few more additional items the Task Force may want to address at greater length or in the future. She noted that the Tech Team would have the capability of coming back to the Task Force with a report on recent dialogue with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on opportunities to lay reuse pipe along FDOT rights-of-way. She also mentioned taking a further look at how to preserve our existing wellfield capacity in light

of climate change. She also noted some basic discussion of legislative requests, that can be pursued, that might include delegation in advocating funding, etc. Chair Estenoz, said the Tech Team and each of Task Force members should consider some of those legislative issues - what works in Broward County from a political perspective. Mayor Flansbaum-Talabisco suggested that the League of Cities could offer some very good contacts for promoting the Task Force's objectives with the State Legislature. Mr. Hanks said a review of existing regulations is warranted to see how they might be strengthened to support Task Force objectives.

There was discussion about how the Task Force could provide outreach on their initiatives and objectives and Dr. Jurado offered that this could possibly be addressed through the County's Working Water Solutions newsletter and website. Chair Estenoz summarized what is expected to be covered at the next meeting in October, to include a presentation by the Army Corps on C-9-C-11 CERP WPA projects, a discussion on utility concerns with 2-day per week watering, and an FDOT update.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek
Kristin Jacobs, Vice Chair and Commissioner, Broward County
Susan Starkey, Councilmember, Town of Davie
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners
Shannon Estenoz, Chair and Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood
Peter Bober, Mayor, City of Hollywood
Lamar Fisher, Mayor, City of Pompano Beach
Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill
Thomas Good, Commissioner and Vice Chair, South Broward Drainage District Board of Commissioners

Technical Team:

Randy Brown, Director, Pompano Beach Utilities
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
J. Martin Cala, Assistant Director, Lauderhill Department of Engineering and Environmental Services
Hector Castor, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise
Julie Leonard, Assistant Utilities Service Director, City of Fort Lauderdale
Joe McLaughlin, City of Pembroke Pines

Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
Raj Verma, Director of Utilities and Engineering, City of Coconut Creek
Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Linda Brien, Administrator of Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District
Susan Smith for David Womacks, Director, City of Oakland Park Public Works
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director, Town of Davie Utilities
Dylan Larson, Builders Association of South Florida
Timothy Mayer, Environmental Administrator, Broward County Health Department

Other Attendees:

Jim Dipietro, Broward County
Ed Kent, Parsons Engineering
Maite Azcotia, Broward County Attorney's Office
Steve Weinsier, Allstate Resource Management
Maria Loucraft, City of Pompano Beach
John Abbot, Keith and Schnars
Charlotte St. John, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services
John Crouse, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services
Brian Shields, Palm Beach County Utilities
T. Joan Lawrence, United States Department of the Interior
Bruce Chen, Chen & Associates
Ed Dion, Nabors, Giblin
Todd Hiteshew, City of Fort Lauderdale
Barry Heimlich, Florida Atlantic University
Tim Welch, City of Sunrise
Stew Magenheimer, Camp, Dresser & McKee
Kevin Fennel, Broward County
Bob, City of Hollywood
Carole Morris, SFWMD
Jose Lopez, SFWMD
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div
Toni Edwards, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div
Rudy Rudolph, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div
Pete Kwiatkowski, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division